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25 August 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 25 August 1981

The Director chaired the meeting.

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The Director noted that Admiral Inman had reported at last week's staff meeting (19 August) on the NSC meeting of 17 August in Los Angeles. He then went on to review the highlights of his trip to Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Los Alamos, and the Strategic Air Command Headquarters (18-21 August). He stated that the trip was most informative and worthwhile and that he was particularly impressed with developments of the U.S. air launched cruise missile.

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The Director reported that he and Admiral Inman met 24 August with the Secretaries of State and Defense to discuss strategic options for the United States--especially basing options for the MX missile system.

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The Director outlined out-of-town visits he intends to make during the remainder of the week

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The Director commented briefly on inevitable pressures on the U.S. budget as decisions are made on the makeup of our strategic forces.

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Sporkin noted progress being made in the final drafting of E.O. 12036 and gave his estimate that the package would be ready by the end of the week.

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[] reviewed probable timetables for "Identities" legislation and for finalizing E.O. 12036. He also called attention to recent leaks in the press regarding E.O. 12036 (see attached). Admiral Inman urged that we expedite the Executive Order and expressed doubts that doing so would impact adversely on prospects for passage of the "Identities" legislation.

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Glerum reported on the CIA recruitment ads run last week in Atlanta and the attendant free and helpful publicity that we received from major national networks. []

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In response to the Director's request, McMahon reviewed the highlights of and rationale for the recently announced NFAC reorganization. He emphasized the role he desires for office directors (managers and directors versus glorified editors and coordinators) and the balance of analysts needed in the various offices. []

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[] noted that the 1 September NFIB meeting will consider two estimates: 1) NIE 11-14/40-81: Soviet Military Forces in the Far East and 2) NIE 7-81: Political Instability and Regional Tensions (Vol. I). []

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Attachment

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A4 ... B1 Tuesday, August 25, 1981

THE WASHINGTON POST

Reagan to Ease Rule on Approval Of Spy Tactics

Associated Press

The Reagan administration intends to reduce the number of top-level officials who must approve the use of spying tactics by U.S. intelligence agents on American citizens and corporations, a top Justice Department official says.

Richard Willard, Attorney General William French Smith's intelligence adviser, said spying on Americans will be kept within the law, but that an executive order issued by President Carter in 1978 set up a burdensome array of requirements for top-level approvals.

"We've now tried to move back from that and come up with a version that will be easier to read and more manageable," Willard said in an interview. "One of the problems is that lawyers are not the only people who have to use these regulations. Agents in the field think they can't do things that are really perfectly legal, because the regulations are so forbidding."

Willard serves on an interagency task force drafting the Reagan revision of the 1978 order which sets rules for intelligence agencies.

Carter's order was designed to prevent recurrence of the 1960s-1970s scandals in which U.S. intelligence agents spied on citizens legally protesting Vietnam and civil rights policies.

The order requires approvals which go higher as the tactics get more intrusive. The most intrusive tactics — break-ins, bugging, television monitoring and mail opening — require general approval from the president and specific approval by the attorney general for each use.

Willard said of the new approach, "The requirement for case-by-case approval by a certain person of a kind of activity that really is not very sensitive or delicate doesn't need to be continued or can be moved lower down the line."